

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00517 051654Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 COME-00 DHA-02 /072 W  
-----052315 044138 /61

R 051310Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4320  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE  
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR  
USINT BAGHDAD IRAQ  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO EGYPT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS SYRIA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN  
AMEMBASSY SANA YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV ISRAEL  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI LIBYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, BCOM, BA  
SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL: CONGREGATION BETH SHERITH

REF: (A) MANAMA 0042; (B) 76 STATE 274477 AND RELATED

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF BROAD ARAB BOYCOTT ISSUES WITH  
GOB MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY IBRAHIM ABDULKARIM  
MARCH 5, SUBJECT OF INCLUSION OF CONGREGATION BETH SHERITH  
(SEE REFTEL (A) AND PREVIOUS) AROSE AGAIN. MINISTER SAID  
HE HAD CHECKED INTO THE HISTORY OF THE RATHER UNUSUAL IN-  
CLUSION OF THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION (AND ITS WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION) ON THE BOYCOTT LIST AND HAD LEARNED THAT THE  
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CONGREGATION HAD BEEN "ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN PROMOTING  
ZIONIST CAUSES" IN THE U.S. IT HAD, FOR THIS REASON, BEEN  
PLACED ON THE LIST. HE NOTED THAT BAHRAIN HAD BEEN "AMONG  
THE LAST" OF THE BOYCOTTING STATES TO INCLUDE THE CONGRE-  
GATION IN ITS BLACKLIST.

2. MINISTER STATED THAT WHILE HE PERSONALLY FELT SUCH RE-

LIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED ON THE LIST, HE FELT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR BAHRAIN TO REMOVE THE CONGREGATION UNILATERALLY, WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH OTHER BOYCOTT COMMITTEE MEMBERS. HE THOUGHT THAT JOINT ARAB ACTION WAS NECESSARY. HE ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF USG DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH OTHER BOYCOTTING STATES. WE REPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTOOD (76 AMMAN 6830) THAT THE JORDANIANS, AT LEAST, HAD AGREED TO REMOVE CONGREGATION FROM THE BOYCOTT LIST BUT THAT WE WERE UNAWARE OF USG APPROACHES TO OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS IN THIS REGARD. MINISTER ASKED THAT WE BRIEF HIM THOROUGHLY ABOUT STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER ARAB STATES, PROMISING SERIOUSLY TO CONSIDER INITIATING MOVE TO REMOVE CONGREGATION FROM LIST AT NEXT CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETING.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: FIRSTLY, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION FROM EMBASSY AMMAN THAT CONGREGATION HAS IN FACT BEEN REMOVED FROM JORDANIAN BOYCOTT OFFICE LIST. SECONDLY, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPT. GUIDANCE ON STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER BOYCOTTING STATES, IF POSSIBLE TO BE PASSED TO MINISTER.

4. COMMENT: WE TAKE SERIOUSLY MINISTER'S TENTATIVE OFFER TO INITIATE MOVE IN BOYCOTT CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO REMOVE CONGREGATION AND ITS SISTERHOOD FROM LIST. HE UNDERSTANDS AND SHARES CONCERN THAT INCLUSION OF RELIGIOUS GROUP CASTS SHADOW ON ARAB CLAIMS THAT BOYCOTT IS NOT RACIAL/RELIGIOUS IN MOTIVATION.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 MANAMA 42, 76 STATE 274477  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009